Tuesday Eveng. 20 Feby—

—My dear Gray—

The regularity of your proceedings is beyond all praise! This (Tuesday Aftn.) at 1½ P.M. I received—not duly—your 2 little letters, under one cover, dated Friday 16 Inst.!! Of course, I am unable to avail myself of Cousin John's kind offer—to whom I wish a safe & pleasant voyage—And now as to Heward—Whose dog is he? But it matters not, in the present case, it being enough for me to know that you would "like to oblige him," & he shall have all I can muster—good, bad, & indifferent. I have, I believe, a few Specimens of the very fine sort, to which you allude, but I fear of only 2 or 3 Species—And now, "perpend my words—Oh! Signor". Would he like duplicates, or several of the same species?

Shall I send them in a parcel to Boott, directed to Mr. Heward? Or shall I send them on to you?

I shall not be able to look them out for a week or so, I fear; as it will take me some time to rummage over all my ferns, & odd bunches of duplicates, & I am now daily expecting my John who will spend a week here, during which time I shall be idle or nearly so, I suppose—He is now, I believe, at your Metropolis, but as his visit is one of business, he will probably not have time to make you a visit, though it is possible that he may do so—On Saturday week, in the Eveng. (say 10th) I was prodigiously surprised by a visit from Brother Charles—who brought me your package of plants, for which many thanks—On the Sunday I called at his Hotel, but found him from home—& on Monday Morning, in the midst of a Snow Storm, he very kindly called to bid me good bye—I gave him a letter to ask old Bellows Falls chum – Cash.r of the Bank there – who is one of the Vermont Delegation, & will, I hope be civil to him at Washington – I regret exceedingly, that I could not make him a guest at Murray Street, but they are all in trouble there – Mrs C. has just lost her youngest sister – Mrs J.B. Arden – who has left six young children – & in addition to this affliction, they have the measles in the house – I received the "to be continued" sheet of Pl. Fendl. by mail, & gather that the "continuation" may, or may not come out this year – Many thanks for the "Wabam. Cat.d" – Truly, I little dreamt of such a commemn. of my labour – I see you take up my new Calais – also my new Ptiloph. & the var. – but what have you done with the queer Asteroid thing which I wrote you about? near to Stenotus, I thought it – I see nothing like it in your Spalding Cat. unless it be the pencil (interposed) "Erigeron filifolium, but yellow rays" – Now, can this be my plant? If so, & we cannot keep the homochromous Asters together, why we shall soon be in a real fix – & no mistake – yellow Erigerons – to be kept clear of Chrysopsis, Aplopappus – Stenotus &c – Oh! Doctor – Doctor – scratch me out that yellow rayed Erigeron, or I shall say of you as the Oxford Magnates said of him – that you are the young (?) man who confounds all Botany –

Did your Mr. Wright collect Isolepis Drummondii Torr. & Hook. in Texas? If so, look me out a ripe spec.n I want one – When Brother Charles returns I shall send by him a few Carices which you have but indifferent specimens of in your Collectn. Taken as a whole, I am prodigiously pleased & satisfied with my own – now that they are arranged – Did Wright bring on any more of my (proposed) C. ~~leucochlora?~~ chloroleuca?

To day I passed an hour with Torrey – & I grieve to say ~~that~~ I found him looking very poorly – He had passed a sleepless night having been suffering great agony from aching teeth, which induced him to take a considerable quantity of Laudanum, & he was under its effect when I saw him – The pain in his teeth was neuralgic, he says, & he burnt a large piece on the outside of his cheek, as a counter-irritant – Altogether he seemed very badly, poor fellow – tho' the agony had passed off – I shall see him again tomorrow –

If your "sticking lady" should be going down your foreign Cyperaceae – I wish you to lay out for me a piece of what you may have under the

names of Scirpus } Bæothryon L.
Eleoch. } pauciflorus, Lightf.
campestris – Roth.
multicaulis – Sm. } Synon. from Kth.

I strongly suspect that the Eleoch. rostellata – Torr. is this very plant! & if so, I will straighten it out for your 2nd Edn Man. – if you bear in mind what I now write you – We have frightfully cold weather – & "any quantity" of snow – within the last 2 or 3 days, however, I have felt more comfortable, tho' I am rather flat, than otherwise – Sam bears this winter infinitely better than the last, I bless God – I rejoice exceedingly also to learn from Brother Chas. & your last notelet, that the wee-wife is doing well – May God bless & prosper you both

Offly yrs. Jno. C.

Do not forget my queries as to [illegible]'s species when you write next.

Profr. A. Gray
Cambridge
Massachusetts.

Wed'y Morning — I find our friend Torrey is writing so we save you a postage by tucking up the 2 [illegible] in one sheet —

Brother Charles tells me the B. F. went to Ohio long since. But the rascal never called on me as he said he should — & there, I have been giving myself the trouble to look out some Cuspd. Carices for him — Is he not a B. F.?